**COVID-19 update**

**15 April 2020**

**In this edition**

* Primary Care COVID-19 update 14 April 2020 – this is attached following feedback from some colleagues that did not receive yesterday’s update
* Updates to the RSS COVID-19 webpage
* Prescribing and medicines update
* CAS alert - Ibuprofen and COVID-19
* Guidance from PHE on Cervical Screening
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* NHS111 Referral: Possible missed patient
* Stepping down infection control precautions and discharge home for COVID-19 patients
* Pertussis vaccination of pregnant women

**Attachments**

* None

**Updates to the RSS COVID-19 webpage**

**National guidance for health professionals**

* [GP Preparedness letter 14 April 2020](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3713&inline=1)
* [Cervical Screening Sample Taking](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3711&inline=1)
* [Emergency Health Care Plan](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3715&inline=1)

**Cancer and COVID-19**

* [Macmillan Primary Care Training Workshop: Courageous Conversations (useful words and phrases)](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3696&inline=1&inline=1)
* [Macmillan Primary Care Training Workshop: Courageous Conversations (key learning points from scenarios)](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3697&inline=1&inline=1)
* [Macmillan’s new COVID 19 resources for professionals and people living with cancer](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3695&inline=1&inline=1) [Community Palliative, End of Life and Bereavement Care in the COVID-19 pandemic](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3698&inline=1&inline=1)
* [COVID-19: Evidence-based advice for difficult conversations](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3699&inline=1&inline=1)

**PPE**

* [Offers made to the CCG for the supply of PPE can be accessed here. Note that these are not endorsed by the CCG.](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/rss/home/infections-and-microbiology/covid-19/ppe-offers/)

**Prescribing and Community Pharmacy updates**

* [BTS Information: Respiratory Inhalers](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3703&inline=1)
* [COPD and COVID-19 for Healthcare Professionals](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3702&inline=1)
* [RTDC Q&A: Vitamin D and infection risk](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3692&inline=1&inline=1)

**Provider information and updates**

* [North Yorkshire County Council Health and Adult Services Provider Bulletin](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3710&inline=1)
* [York Hospital: Easy read - Going to the hospital because you are poorly with symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3701&inline=1&inline=1)
* [York Hospital: Covid 19 – People with Learning Disabilities and their carers- FAQ](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3700&inline=1&inline=1)
* [York Hospital Learning Disability Factsheet](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3694&inline=1&inline=1)

**Useful information**

* [Staff mental health and wellbeing](https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=3714&inline=1)

**Prescribing and medicines update**

1. RDTC has produced three new documents about prescribing and medicine during Covid-19:

* [Practical warfarin monitoring during the COVID-19 pandemic response](https://rdtc.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/10-rdtc-gmmmg-covid-19-qaa-practical-warfarin-monitoring.pdf)
* [Covid 19 QAA -Switching from intravenous to subcutaneous infliximab](https://rdtc.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/9-rdtc-_covid_19_qaa_-switching_from_intravenous_to_subcutaneous_infliximab.pdf)
* [COVID-19 - Vitamin D and infection risk](https://rdtc.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/8-rdtc-gmmmg-covid-19-qaa-vitamin-d-and-infection-risk-version-1.pdf)

We are aware some clinicians have had difficulty accessing the RDTC links – we have raised this with RDTC. The COVID-19 related PDF documents should be available without the need for a log-in.

1. BTS has produced advice for healthcare professionals treating patients with COPD and information regarding respiratory inhalers – please see attached guidance. The BTS has warned that demand for inhalers had increased by 400%. It has reminded clinicians to continue to write monthly repeat prescriptions rather than writing prescriptions for several months. Inhaler technique should also be optimised.

**CAS alert - Ibuprofen and COVID-19**

An expert working group concludes there is currently insufficient evidence to establish a link between use of ibuprofen and susceptibility to contracting COVID-19 or the worsening of its symptoms. Patients can take paracetamol or ibuprofen when self-medicating for symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever and headache, and should [follow NHS advice](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/) if they have any questions or if symptoms get worse. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/commission-on-human-medicines-advice-on-ibuprofen-and-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=67b434ea-88c7-41c9-a106-575b2150095a&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate>

**Guidance from PHE on Cervical Screening**

The document linked above has been issued by the Regional Public Health Commissioners regarding guidance for sample taking.  Pathology Services will continue to deliver a cervical screening service for any samples that are still taken. Their courier service is providing a routine plus new ad hoc collection service. If you would like your Cervical Screening courier service temporarily stopped as you have paused sample taking, or you are just taking ad hoc samples and require an ad hoc collection please email: [ghnt.neycervicalscreeningcentre@nhs.net](mailto:ghnt.neycervicalscreeningcentre@nhs.net). If you have moved to ad hoc collections or do not appear to have had a collection in a week please call 0800 953 7610 so a collection can be organised for you.

**EHCP for patients at home**

Please see the link above for the Emergency Health Care Plan (EHCP), which if completed, helps rapid communication of information regarding an individual, to ensure timely access to the right treatment and specialists.

**North Yorkshire County Council Health and Adult Services Provider Bulletin**

The latest COVID19 related Provider Bulletin is available at the link above.  It contains some information on DOLS which you may find useful.

**NHS111 Referral: Possible missed patient**

There has been an issue with a patient referred to CCAS by NHS111.  The patient was expecting a call from the practice. The practice did not expect to call, so was not looking out for it, the patient fortunately lost patience and rang the practice. He turned out to be ill enough to be admitted. Practices are asked to please check their NHS111 calls regularly and action calls where possible directly to avoid delays in patients accessing care.

1. **Stepping down infection control precautions and discharge home for COVID-19 patients**

There has been some new guidance published about the discharge of Covid-19 patients from hospital and when to step down infection control precautions for those likely to remain in hospital.  Please see the summary below and click on the link for more information:

After 14 days following a positive test Infection Prevention Control measures for hospitalised Covid-19 patients can be stopped if there is:

* Clinical improvement with at least some respiratory recovery
* Absence of fever (>37.8◦C for 48 hours
* No underlying severe immunosuppression

On discharge to their usual address, they should be advised to self-isolate for 14 days if they have been admitted to ITU/ARCU on MAU or severely immunocompromised or 7 days if this is not the case.  The 14 day period is advised because of the uncertainty about viral clearance in patients with more severe disease or underlying severe immunosuppression. The guidance includes advice for the isolation period for the rest of the household after the patient is back home. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-stepdown-of-infection-control-precautions-within-hospitals-and-discharging-covid-19-patients-from-hospital-to-home-settings/guidance-for-stepdown-of-infection-control-precautions-and-discharging-covid-19-patients>

**Pertussis vaccination of pregnant women**

Pregnant women are reporting that some GP Practices are not doing offering Pertussis vaccination. Information provided from NY&H Screening and Immunisation Team regarding the pertussis vaccination for pregnant women states that the current position is practices **should** be delivering the vaccination programme as normal and as described in the RGCP/BMA Workload Prioritisation list.